

B O R O U G H A N D P O R T O F S A N D W I C H

A N N U A L R E P O R T O F M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

For the Year

1961

Council in Office 1962

Mayor: Alderman A.H. Jutson, J.P.

Chairman - Public Health Committee

Councillor D.S. Pettet

Other Members of Council - as at 30.6.62

Alderman G. Cleverly	Councillor R. Hambridge
Alderman A. Motherhead, J.P.	Councillor J. D. Jezard
Alderman Miss M. R. Turner	Councillor R. Sage
Councillor L. R. Barlow	Councillor A. G. Skinner
Councillor Mrs I.E. Boyle	Councillor A. M. Sproul
Councillor D. F. N. Cox	Councillor H. C. Walby, D.S.O., M.C.
Councillor B. E. Fagan	Councillor F. E. Wood

(Cinque Port) Mayors Depute - Fordwich: Robert Paine, A.R.I.B.A., A.R.C.A.
Brightlingsea: James I'Anson
Sarre: H.G. Clements

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 30.6.62

Senior Public Health Inspector and Surveyor	G. T. Rowlands, C.R.S.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector	W.F. Wilkinson, C.R.S.I.
Clerk	Miss E. V. Miles

Town Clerk

BARRIE ROBERTS

Council in Office 1902

Mayor: Alderman A.H. Johnson, J.P.

Chairman - Public Health Committee

Councillor D.S. Pettit

Other Members of Council - as at 30.6.02

Councillor E. Hensbridge
Councillor J. G. Jackson
Councillor R. S. S. S.
Councillor J. G. Skidmore
Councillor A. M. Spence
Councillor H. G. Wally, D.S.O., M.C.
Councillor F. E. Wood

Alderman G. Claverly
Alderman A. Hensbridge, J.P.
Alderman Mrs M. R. Turner
Councillor J. R. Barlow
Councillor Mrs I. R. Boyle
Councillor D. F. Fox
Councillor S. E. Pagan

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G. F. Hensbridge,
G.R.S.I.
W. F. Whitman,
G.R.S.I.
Miss E. V. Miles

Senior Public Health Inspector and Surveyor
Additional Public Health Inspector
Clerk

Town Clerk

BARRIE ROBERTS

Borough of Sandwich 1961

To His Worship the Mayor (Alderman A.H. Jutson)
Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Sandwich

I have the honour to present the report on Sandwich 1961.

1. The size of the population has remained static and no extension of boundary has occurred. You will see from the statistics provided on a later page that the number of births has gone up to 50 but that our birthrate of 13.6 per 1,000 persons corrected for population make up is below the rate for England and Wales.
2. The social circumstances of the Borough were referred to in 1960 and remain unchanged. The Borough continues to serve as a Market town and local shopping centre.
3. The dogs of residents were causing some nuisance by fouling of footways and the Council decided to seek Byelaw powers against dog owners, which are now implemented.
4. An uncontrolled variety of humans, caused some trouble by wanton damage. The compulsive destruction is hard to understand. A lifebuoy stolen from the Quay - people have fallen in the river and have drowned in it. Lights smashed in alleys; a wife or daughter may have to traverse that dark alley. It is very hard to believe that nobody ever sees the beginnings of smashing up in a Convenience or other such stupid behaviour. The progress in providing good amenities is hindered by the braggadocio that leads to this "watch me do damage" play, and a friendly word from a passer by may be all that is needed to encourage his companions to control the offender. Does nobody see or hear it happen ?
5. The historic atmosphere of Sandwich is worthy of preservation, and the Council is always hesitant about the demolition of old property. Guildcourt Lane, Vicarage Lane, Cottage Row and Paradise Row were all the subject of special consideration and report, and these and other parts of the Borough will need periodic reconsideration to ensure that our desire to preserve antiquity does not hinder harshly (for the tenants) the necessary improvement in living conditions of the community. Closure, sale and redevelopment has resurrected some houses that are now reasonable dwellings, but the limit must be judged on the basis of reasonable comfort and conditions for the tenant or occupier.

6. In our Council estates of houses we must see to it that each house has a clear identity. The local members of the British Medical Association made a special appeal for clear numbering of houses to help the family doctor find his patient. It is always the emergency case that is difficult to find. The historic character of the town was enhanced by one of the family doctors opening a Surgery in the Butchery but it was not for this reason that you reviewed mortuary facilities and now have arrangements with Ramsgate Borough to place bodies in their properly equipped public mortuary and have abandoned the shell at the Barbican.

7. The Refuse disposal arrangements are referred to by the Public Health Inspector in the following pages. The "controlled" tip causes no offence to the town because it is sited in the Rural District. The present tip is difficult to control or to render sightly without a willingness on the part of the Council to spend money on the purchase of cover and the use of machinery. For this reason you investigated and made the preliminary moves to obtain a new site at a disused brickfield in the Borough. The objections from residents in the locality were such that the project was abandoned. An arrangement with Ramsgate as an alternative was not found acceptable and we still have the Ash Road tip, which needs money spent to bring it into order.

8. Sewage from the Rural District coming into the Town system was increased by connections from Woodnesborough sewage scheme. Further investigation was carried out on flows, and on the best site for, method and means of disposal from, a sewage treatment plant. A site has been identified at Stonar R.A.F. area and the long procedure of acquiring it is under way.

9. The private abattoir which serves as a public slaughterhouse changed hands during the year and the proposals submitted for improvement were revised and re-aligned. Conditions are potentially much improved but disposal of waste both in transport and destination is not ideal.

10. Infectious disease:

The incidence of infectious disease was low, except for Measles in the middle months of the year when 87 cases were notified.

11. The County Medical Officer's staff and family doctors carried out the following protective inoculations during the year:

Protective Inoculations 1961

	0 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 15	Total
Diphtheria: Primary	62	1	1	64
Booster	15	40	13	68
Whooping Cough	61	-	-	61

	0 - 4	5 - 15	16 - 40	Others
Poliomyelitis:				
2 injections:	57	27	115	4
3 injections:	38	19	101	3
4th for children under 12	361			

Primary Smallpox Vaccination: Under 2 years - 24
2 - 15 " - 6

12. The level of protection in our infant population was under 50% at the end of 1961 and it is hoped that the national experience in early 1962 will have made mothers realise the importance of infant vaccination.

13. Tuberculosis. At the end of 1961 the register of cases stood at:

Pulmonary Tuberculosis - males 12
females 13

Non-Pulmonary - males 5
females 3

New cases coming to my notice during the year numbered 2 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary.

14. Mass Radiography Survey.

The Unit visited Sandwich in the Autumn of 1961 and established itself in the T.A. centre, going also to the Secondary Schools and the factories in Richborough Road.

1,151 general members of the public attended, 24% for the first time; and 2,047 factory personnel of whom 26% were examined for the first time.

Five cases of active disease were identified.

15. Food Poisoning.

An elderly person suffered some illness after a visit to Sandwich which was suspected to be food poisoning but further enquiries left the matter in doubt. Nevertheless investigations were made at eating places visited to ensure that all was in order.

16. Other Matters.

A number of rehousing cases of special nature were investigated and recommendations made on medical priority.

One problem of an elderly infirm couple was resolved with the aid of relatives.

17. Two cases of overcrowding which, while not statutory overcrowding, created serious living difficulties were put forward for rehousing urgently and helped.

18. The usual statistics follow, and also Mr Rowlands's report on the work of the public health inspectors. Meat inspection is a regular feature of the work and is a load carried for the surrounding district as well as for the Borough.

May I express my appreciation of the ready ear which the Council give to my advice and the happy working relations with your other Council officers.

Malcolm S. Harvey

M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

Statistical details follow:-

Population: Mid-1961 - 4230

Live births 1961: 50 (23 male, 27 female: illegitimate 5)

Stillbirths: 1

Live birth rate: 11.6 per 1,000 population (Corrected by R.G. Factor = 13.6)

England and Wales = 17.4)

Infant Deaths under 1 year of age = 3 (2 under 1 week
1 over 1 month)

Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births = 60 per 1,000 live births

Percentage of all births illegitimate = 10%.

There were no infant deaths or stillbirths in illegitimate children or conceptions.

Deaths all ages and causes = 53 (27 Males, 26 Females)

Death rate = 12.5 per 1,000 population (Corrected by R.G. Factor = 9.27)

England and Wales: 12.0)

Causes of infant deaths:

Age	Sex	Cause
1 hour	m.	Congenital defect
2 days	f.	Failure of Respiration (Atelectasis)
6 months	m.	Acute Bronchitis with broncho-pneumonia.
All causes of death		

	M	F	Total	1960
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm. Stomach	-	-	-	2
" Lungs, Bronchus	3	-	3	5
All others	1	3	4	5
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	1	1	1
Diabetes	1	-	1	-
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	5	5	10	9
Coronary Disease	3	1	4	15
Hypertension with Heart disease	1	1	2	-
Other Heart disease	3	2	5	9
Other Circulatory Disease	-	5	5	5
Pneumonia	1	-	1	2
Bronchitis	3	1	4	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-
Motor Vehicle accidents	1	-	1	-
All other accidents	1	-	1	3
Suicide	-	-	-	-
Other defined or ill defined diseases	3	7	10	12
	27	26	53	70

Infectious Diseases

Age Groups

	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25+	Total
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	-	-	1	-	-	1
Measles	40	45	1	1	-	87

Age Groups

	Under 5	5-14	15-44	45-64	65+	Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis	-	-	1f	-	1m	2
Tuberculosis Other	-	-	-	1m	1f	2

The Senior Public Health Inspector has supplied the following details of the work of his department during 1961.

1. Water Supplies.

The Thanet Water Board is the body responsible for the supply of water to the Borough and the extensive mains system throughout the Borough has now been linked closely to the system of the whole area.

The main alteration to the supply during the year was in the expansion of the Woodnesborough source so that the potential of this source will be vastly increased. It is anticipated that this work will be completed in 1962. The system in the Borough has not been altered but proposed development in Richborough Road and on the Gazen Salts will necessitate the extension of the mains to cater for this development. It is likely that a new main will be laid up the Richborough Road in 1962 and if development of the whole of Gazen Salts is permitted then a loop will be laid through this site back into Strand Street.

Samples of water from the mains are taken from two points in the Borough. The first at the Guildhall and the second from the outfall from the high level tank at Messrs Pfizers. During 1961 12 samples were taken in this way and after examination at the Public Health Laboratories all were found to be perfectly satisfactory.

2. Drainage.

As was stated in the 1960 Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health the float tests carried out at the end of 1959 were found to be unsatisfactory. The currents were such that floats put in up to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile below low water were all washed up on the shore after a comparatively short time. As a result the attention of the Borough Council has been directed to the construction of a sewage works. The site chosen is a parcel of land (approximately 9 acres) immediately to the west of Stonar House in the R.A.F. area. This land has been declared redundant to service requirements and planning permission has been obtained for the use of land for this purpose. The actual acquisition of the land from the Air Ministry has not yet taken place as none of the land has been disposed of as yet.

In consequence of requests from the factories the Borough Council is considering both a sewage work for the Town alone and also one to take trade effluent from the factories.

During the year the collection of information on sewage flows at the pumping station and of the intensity of the rainfall has continued and the data collected has been passed on to your consultant engineers.

During the year no additions were made to the sewer system in the Borough. The pumps worked satisfactorily and the regular maintenance of these pumps has been maintained, worn parts being replaced when necessary. The sewage from Woodnesborough is now being accepted into the Woodnesborough sewer at Poulders Gardens, and the sewage from Sandwich Bay is taken into the Sandown Road sewer at the junction of that road with the road leading to St George Golf Club. In each case we have been requested to supervise these pumping stations and this we now carry out.

3. Food and food preparation premises.

During the year the routine inspection of all food and food preparation premises has been maintained. No formal notices have been served but advice given and suggestions made and invariably these comments have been acted upon.

A total of 160 visits were made for this purpose and the importance of cleanliness and hygiene has been emphasized and the general standard throughout the Borough is reasonable.

4. Ice Cream.

No ice cream is manufactured in the Borough but there are now 17 premises registered for the sale of ice cream, or ice cream products. This is increasing because of the use of deep freezing cabinets, and except in some cafes and hotels the ice cream or ice cream products are all sold pre-packed.

The routine sampling of ice cream has continued throughout the year and 16 ice cream samples were taken and sent to the Public Health laboratories for examination. The results of these samples are as follows.

Category I	11
Category II	5
Category III	1

In every instance of a sampling failing to pass in Category I further samples were taken.

5. Butchers' Shops.

All Butchers' shops, food preparation rooms and vehicles transporting meat have been regularly inspected throughout the year. The standards of cleanliness and hygiene have been well maintained and special attention has been paid to the provision of hot water, the making of all surfaces impervious and the proper use of refrigeration.

6. Bakehouses.

The number of Bakehouses in the Borough is now only two and these are both under the same management. Conditions here are quite satisfactory.

7. Shops.

All shops were inspected during the year and the washing and sanitary accommodation for the staff received special attention. Here again my assistant and myself always received complete co-operation on the part of the shopkeepers and any suggestions we have made for improvements have always been promptly acted upon.

8. Licensed Premises.

The inspection of all licensed premises has also been routine during the year and here again complete co-operation has been experienced and standards have been improved.

9. Milk and Dairies.

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations 1959 (Part III)

Number of registered distributors	2
" " " Dairies	2

During the year routine sampling of milk continued. In all 21 samples of milk were taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratories for examination. All except 1 conformed to the prescribed standards. When a further sample was taken it conformed to the required standards.

10. Meat Inspection.

There is only one abattoir in the Borough, a private one situated in Loop Street. It is only a small abattoir yet it kills for a very wide area and the vast majority of the kill is exported out of the area. During the year a considerable amount of work has been carried out to the buildings both to increase the size of the cooling halls and lairage accommodation and also to bring it up to the standards required in recent legislation. The work has now been completed and the slaughterhouse now conforms to modern requirements.

Naturally this work thoroughly upset the killing programme and the throughput was seriously curtailed whilst the building work was in progress. This is shown in the figures of the kill which I have broken down into classes and have set out below against the previous years figures.

	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
Cattle	2396	1931	2777	2365
Calves	1000	933	941	1351
Sheep	6121	14066	9751	6737
Pigs	15896	15261	14769	12734
Total:	25413	32191	28238	23187
% Increase or decrease	-18%	+26%	-12%	-18%

I think the 18% decrease in the kill in 1961 over 1960 is only a temporary reduction mainly due to the building operations and I would predict that the 1962 figures will show a very big % increase over the 1961 figures. Even with the reduction in the total of animals killed, slaughtering occurs normally on six days and occasionally seven days in the week. It does mean however that the amount of evening work was slightly reduced as the killing finished earlier in the evening. All animals were inspected post mortem and many before slaughter and in order to carry out this work several inspection visits had to be made daily. In the course of these inspections a total of 12 tons 10 cwts of meat and offal was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

The table below gives details of the number of animals slaughtered and the incidence of disease.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	1579	786	1351	6737	12734	-
Number inspected	1579	786	1351	6737	12734	-
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	4	1	78	41	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	201	463	15	249	1531	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	12.7	59.4	1.18	4.9	12.3	
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	5	-	-	210	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	0.63	-	-	1.6	-

Meat Inspection (contd).

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part (contd.)

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	2	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	8	2	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Number of Slaughter-houses in use:-

Slaughter-houses/Abattoirs in operation owned or leased by Local Authority	Private Slaughter-houses Licensed Operating	Bacon Factories	Knackers' Yards
NIL	1 1	NIL	NIL

Percentage of slaughtered animals inspected for the purpose of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955	100%
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The figures of the incidence of disease although not so good as in 1960 are extremely interesting. The percentage of animals some part of which was diseased (other than tuberculosis) was down in all categories except cattle, which showed an appreciable increase. This probably has two causes; firstly the wetter summer which would encourage parasite disease normally only affecting certain organs, or secondly the killing off of older animals in the herds now that Kent is an Eradication Area. The reduction in the incidence of this class of disease in calves, sheep, and pigs is very gratifying and is possibly due to better methods of keeping the stock.

The percentage of the animals killed found to be affected with Tuberculosis is very slightly up on last year but well down on previous years. The number of cows has risen from 3 to 5 but this is probably due to reactors being removed from the herd, but these figures are completely insignificant to those of, say, 10 years ago. Pigs also show a slight rise in the incidence of this disease, but like the cattle the disease is in a very slight form and the severe cases which used to be met with in the past are absent today. It is noticeable that the reduction of T.B. in pigs follows the reduction of T.B. in the cows.

The increase in the number of animals affected by Cysticercosis is not very significant. 10 animals were found affected by this disease as against 5 animals in 1960. This represents one animal in 236. The disease is not spread evenly over the kill, several cases being discovered over a short period then none for several months.

11. Council Property.

No further building of houses took place during the year. The Hazelwood Meadow scheme is still being proceeded with and in this period the Corporation acquired the land through compulsory purchase. The lay-out plans, unit plans, specifications and Bills of Quantity are being prepared and the work will go out to open tender. The proposed composition of the estate is unaltered and still consists of 16 one-bedroom flats, 18 three-bedroom houses and a Warden's flat and Common Room.

With regard to the existing estate normal maintenance and improvements have been carried out. The Corporation have taken on two painters and the routine painting of the exterior of the houses on the estate is now carried out by your own staff. During the year 48 houses were so painted, the new colour scheme being maintained.

12. Warden Area.

The Warden scheme, started last year, continued and has proved to be quite successful. The work is not very demanding of the Warden but the daily contact with the old folk in the bungalows has been most useful. When the Warden is ill or is absent on holiday the Sandwich Red Cross detachment takes over the Warden's duty and maintains the close contact with the old folk.

Provision is being made in the Hazelwood Meadow extension of the Estate for a similar service to be provided for the old people in the one-bedroom flats.

13. Other Property.

During the year several schemes were undertaken privately for the improvement of old property and to bring them up to modern standards as regards amenities.

Eleven such schemes were considered and 10 improvement grants and 1 Standard Grant were approved. The total of the improvement grants amounted to £1716. 0s. 0d.

The improvement grant scheme is most useful in an old and historic Borough like Sandwich for it assists to maintain the property and consequently helps to retain the street picture. Were it not for the grant a considerable amount of demolition work would have to be undertaken and the character of the town would be bound to suffer.

14. Slum Clearance.

During the year no slum clearance was undertaken by the Local Authorities. In spite of this however 4 - 5 very sub-standard houses were improved and brought up to modern requirement. This occurred in instances where the property fell vacant and upon sale the new owner spent considerable sums on repairing and modernising the building.

15. General Housing Inspections.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| a) Number of dwellings inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts | 55 |
| b) Houses found to be in any respect unfit for human habitation | 12 |
| c) Houses found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense | NIL |
| d) Dwellings where defects were remedied after informal action | 15 |
| e) Dwellings rendered fit after serving formal Notices | NIL |
| f) Dwellings in respect of which Demolition orders were made (Closing orders under Section 17 Housing Act 1957 Sub-Section 1 Section 16/4) | NIL |
| Dwellings in respect of which demolition orders were made | NIL |
| g) Houses demolished | NIL |
| h) Houses in which closing orders in respect of part of a building were made | NIL |

16. Refuse disposal.

The weekly collection of refuse from the Borough and its disposal by controlled tipping on the Council's site adjacent to the Ash Road has continued throughout the year.

This is a difficult tip to control because the amount of refuse is increasing every year but the quantity of covering matter is limited on this site.

No fly nuisance has been experienced during the year, possibly because of the routine spraying of the tip; but some trouble has been experienced from rat infestation. As is usually the case in controlled tips such as the one along the Canterbury

Road, it becomes a focus of infestation which must continually be kept in check to prevent a spread. Routine treatments are carried out 3 or 4 times a year and during 1960 the infestation has been maintained at a reasonably low level through these treatments.

17. Factories.

	On Register	Inspections	Notices
Those where Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authority.	1	1	-
Those where Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	36	30	-
Other premises where Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	1	-	-
TOTAL	38	31	--

The factories were regularly inspected during the year and co-operation was always experienced from the managements. Suggestions made during the visits were promptly acted upon and it was not necessary to serve any formal Notices.

There are 42 outworkers residing in the Borough all of whom make paper containers for one of the factories along the Ramsgate Road.

18. Petroleum.

Visits were paid to all places where petroleum or highly inflammable spirits were stored, in conjunction with a representative of the Kent Fire Service. In most cases it was found that the regulations had been complied with and in the others where faults were found letters pointing this out were acted upon.

19. Rodent Control.

During the year a considerable amount of work was carried out either inspecting property for evidence of infestation or carrying out treatment when such infestation was discovered. It was found that 60 residential properties, 1 Agricultural holding, 10 business premises and 1 school were infested either by rats or mice and in all cases treatment was carried out and the nuisance was abated. The control tip is a permanent reservoir of infestation and three times during the year this received extensive treatment.

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IV. Factories.

On	Inspector	Inspections	Notices
Those where Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 are enforced by Local Authority.	1	1	-
Those where Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	38	30	-
Other premises where Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	1	-	-
TOTAL	38	31	-

The factories were regularly inspected during the year and co-operation was always experienced from the management. Suggestions made during the visits were promptly acted upon and it was not necessary to serve any formal notices.

There are 45 outworkers residing in the Borough all of whom make paper coasters for one of the factories along the Ramsgate Road.

16. Petochem.

Visits were paid to all places where petroleum or highly inflammable spirits were stored, in conjunction with a representative of the Kent Fire Service. In most cases it was found that the regulations had been complied with and in the others where faults were found letters pointing this out were acted upon.

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The normal method of control has continued to be the use of Warfarin which in most instances proved to be highly effective: where however the food available to the rodents was plentiful or more attractive recourse had to be made to the older types of poison and this was effective.

As usual a sewer treatment was carried out early in the year and test baiting was undertaken throughout a percentage of the manholes on the system. The pattern of infestation was found to be the same as in past years, the bait only being taken from those manholes where the sewer discharges directly into the river. It is almost impossible to eliminate the rats from the river banks, because of the nature of these banks and the presence of vast quantities of very soft mud. The infestation of the banks is bound to be endemic and we can only concentrate on keeping this within reasonable bounds.

20. Shipping, Sandwich Port and Haven.

Ships from	Tonnage (Unladen)	No. Inspected		Infectious Disease on Board
		By M.O.H.	By P.H.I.	
Foreign Ports -6	578	-	4	Nil
Coastwise -132	11,588	-	20	Nil
Total -138	12,166	-	24	Nil

Passenger Traffic	Inward)	nil	Total
	Outward)		
Cargo Traffic	Imports - timber	)Tonnage	
	Coastwise - oil, beach and gravel		
	Exports - nil		

Principal ports of origin: Sweden, Danzig, Essex.

Inland Barge Traffic Nil

